

Office of Juvenile Justice Frequently Asked Questions

STATE ADVISORY GROUP

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1. WHY IS GJJAC BEING REPOSITIONED?

Pursuant to the Governor's 21st Century Government reform initiative for more efficient and effective government, the Governor directed the elimination or restructuring of state boards and committees. As part of this reform effort, the Governor requested that GJJAC be repositioned, creating a new State Advisory Group (SAG) with increased visibility and a stronger, pro-active role, influencing the adoption and implementation of innovative juvenile justice reforms and best practices with increased leadership and support by the Secretary of DSHS.

2. WHAT IS THE FRAMEWORK OF THE STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

The new SAG will be called the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (J-JAC). The J-JAC will be convened by the Secretary of DSHS and comprised of public and private sector Juvenile Justice system leaders from across Washington State. Through collaborative leadership and direction, the J-JAC will share responsibility in leveraging resources and work collaboratively across system lines to achieve juvenile justice reform goals for measurable impact.

3. WHEN WILL THE REPOSITIONING BE IMPLEMENTED?

The Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (GJJAC) will sunset upon the formation of the new State Advisory Group which is expected to occur by June 30, 2010. The J-JAC will be appointed beginning in July of 2010 and convene their first meeting in October 2010. The establishment of the J-JAC will be by Executive Order.

4. HOW WILL JUVENILE JUSTICE STAKEHOLDERS BE INVOLVED IN THE REPOSITIONING PROCESS?

We will be reaching out to juvenile justice stakeholders and practitioners through our recruitment process.

5. CAN EXISTING GJJAC MEMBERS BE RE-APPOINTED TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

There will be a nomination process announced to encourage juvenile justice leaders from across Washington to apply. Interested individuals, including current GJJAC members, may apply at that time at: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/application/default.asp>

6. ARE THERE ANY FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS WITH WHICH THE STATE ADVISORY GROUP HAS TO COMPLY?

A State Advisory Group must comply with 42 U.S.C. 5633 [Sec. 223.]. Compliance with this statute is mandatory for the acceptance of juvenile justice federal funds from OJJDP. The J-JAC will comply with all federal requirements under the OJJDP Act.

7. WHAT WILL THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S MEMBERSHIP LOOK LIKE?

When selecting the J-JAC's membership, the composition will be consistent with Federal requirements. However, for each position, system leaders who have extensive experience and knowledge in juvenile justice and who are able to affect or influence system change will be given priority. The membership also will include youth representation, to ensure the youth voice is included in the reform effort.

As required by 42 U.S.C. 5633 §223, the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) requires that at a minimum, a State Advisory Group shall include:

- one locally elected official representing general purpose local government;
- representatives of law enforcement and juvenile justice agencies including juvenile and family court judges, prosecutors, counsel for children and youth, and probation workers;

- representatives of public agencies concerned with delinquency prevention or treatment, social services, mental health, education and youth services;
- representatives of private nonprofit organizations, volunteers who work with delinquents or potential delinquents; youth workers involved with programs that are alternatives to incarceration;
- persons with special experience and competence in addressing problems related to school violence and alternatives to suspension and expulsion;
- persons with special experience and competence in addressing learning disabilities; and child abuse and neglect, and youth violence;
- one-fifth of its members shall be under the age of 24, a “majority” of the State Advisory Group members shall not be full-time employees of the Federal, State, or local government, and at least 3 members must have been or are currently under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system.

8. WHO WILL CHAIR THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE?

In accordance with Federal statute 42 U.S.C. 5633 §. 223, the SAG Chair will be appointed by the Governor. This statute also prohibits a full-time employee of the Federal, State, or local government from chairing the SAG.

9. DOES THE TERMINATION OF GJJAC REQUIRE STATE LEGISLATION?

Pursuant to Federal regulation, the creation and termination of a State Advisory Group (i.e., GJJAC) is by Executive Order and therefore no state legislation is required.

10. WHAT NATIONAL MODELS ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE FORMATION OF THIS STATE ADVISORY GROUP?

The Office of Juvenile Justice and National Resource Bank consultants for the Washington Models for Change Juvenile Justice Reform Initiative are in the process of reviewing other SAGs to identify best practice models.

11. HOW WILL THE STATE ADVISORY GROUP BE SUPPORTED?

The J-JAC will be funded through a combination of federal and state dollars and staffed by the Department of Social and Health Service’s Office of Juvenile Justice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROCESS, WHO SHOULD WE CONTACT?

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